

children who are uninsured have parents who work but whose employers cannot or do not provide health care coverage for the children.

The Democratic plan will help children get coverage by requiring insurance companies to offer kids-only health plans and tax credits to help families pay for those premiums. The Democratic families first agenda will indeed offer real improvements to every life for America's working families, especially our children.

Let us work together bipartisanship to improve the health care for America's 10 million uninsured children.

A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as a father I am concerned about not only my children but about the health and well-being of all children in this country. That is why I support a balanced budget amendment and a real balanced budget. But Mr. Clinton has determined that we will have neither.

The Clinton administration work feverishly to defeat the BBA, and the balanced budget they submitted earlier this year falls short of balancing the budget by \$69 billion.

Mr. Speaker, our children deserve better. They deserve a future that is bright and free of the debt that this Government keeps piling on them year after year. We literally take money out of the back pockets of our children when we do not balance the budget.

The last time America had a balanced budget was 1969. Since then we have accumulated over \$5.3 trillion in national debt. It is a shame that the White House would block the only way to ensure our children will not have to face an 80- to 90-percent tax rate when they grow up to become taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, we need to balance the budget, we need a balanced budget amendment.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reports say that record numbers of illegal immigrants keep running across the border, many with backpacks full of heroin and cocaine. To boot, the Immigration and Naturalization Service just granted citizenship to 71,000 criminals, 71,000 criminals.

Now, if that is not enough to tax your prison, check this out. For quote unquote "excellent work," the Vice President just gave the Immigration and Naturalization Service the national performance hammer award. For what? For a Border Patrol program known as Ollie, Ollie In Free.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The Immigration and Naturalization Service

does not warrant or deserve awards. They should be getting subpoenas from the Justice Department.

I yield back the balance of all this prison space that will be taken up.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton has stated over and over his commitment to producing a real balanced budget. I do not doubt his commitment. It is his math that I am worried about. The CBO predicts the President's most recent budget will have a \$69 billion deficit in the year 2002, when there should be no deficit.

Mr. Speaker, we see that the White House worked feverishly to defeat a balanced budget amendment. Now we see why. He has no intention of producing a real balanced budget. During his State of the Union Address the President said, and I quote, "Balancing the budget requires only your vote and my signature. It does not require us to rewrite our Constitution."

Mr. Speaker, who is the President kidding? If he cannot even produce a balanced budget, why should we expect him to sign one? Instead of lip service, Bill Clinton should send Congress a real budget using real numbers and one that actually adds up.

UNINSURED CHILDREN

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over 175 Democratic Members have signed a letter to the Republican leadership urging a date certain for floor consideration of legislation that provides health insurance coverage for the 10 million American kids that do not have it. So far the Republican leadership refuses to address the issue of kids health insurance. Last week many of my Democratic colleagues discussed a recent New York City survey that pointed to the growing numbers of children without health insurance.

Today the GOP is supposed to unveil its long-overdue legislative agenda for the 105th Congress. A present view of that agenda published in today's newspapers does not mention kids health insurance. Nor did the Republicans include the issue when they talked about a bipartisan agenda with President Clinton a few weeks ago.

I want to assure my colleagues, though, that this issue will not go away because the Democrats will not allow it to. It is a disgrace that 10 million American children, most of whose parents work very hard, do not have health care coverage.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about American families and American children and health care, and I know that the one way we can achieve that is to balance our budget. We will not achieve it if we do not balance our budget.

The President has sent down his budget. It is \$69 or \$70 billion out of balance when we get to the year 2002. In fact, the deficit is going to go up \$14 billion before it starts to go down. The American people are smart. We can tell them we are going to balance the budget, and the President can say it; but whether we come back with a plan that raises the deficit and then leaves 75 percent of the balancing of the budget to be done in the next administration, they know we are blowing smoke at them.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a job to do. The President has a responsibility to send a balanced budget down here. We need to get at it.

BLUE DOG COALITION BUDGET

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that in my first opportunity to speak on the floor of the House, I am rising to voice my strong support for the blue dog coalition budget. The coalition budget is a commonsense approach to deficit reduction. It does not rely on gimmicks, nor do we postpone the tough cuts until the final years of the plan.

At this point the blue dog budget is the only budget plan that will balance the budget by the year 2002 and take the Social Security trust fund off budget by 2005. As Members of Congress, we must show our constituents that we can make the tough choices necessary to put our fiscal house in order. The coalition budget proves that we can balance the budget, save Medicare and Social Security, and preserve our commitment on education.

If we colleagues are truly looking to balance the budget in a bipartisan manner, I urge them to take a long hard look at the blue dog budget. This is the right plan for Democrats and Republicans to begin to form a truly bipartisan consensus on a balanced budget.

TIME FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this country is in a time of need. What our constituents need is a budget that will stay balanced. It is our obligation to provide that for them. Mr. Speaker, the President has proposed a budget that does not offer what we